MONSTER'S LULLABY

by

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INT. EMMA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Chunky shaped furniture in the darkest part of the room.

EMMA, seventeen, with looks similar to Wednesday Addams sits curled up in an overstuffed chair and reads a book by the only light in the room.

The phone beside her RINGS. She answers.

EMMA

Hello.

WOMAN (V.O.) Could I speak with Emma please?

EMMA This is Emma.

WOMAN (V.O.) I'm so glad we could reach you! This is the agency.

EMMA Emma's not here.

She hangs up the phone, and goes back to her reading.

The phone RINGS again. Again, she answers.

EMMA

Hello.

WOMAN (V.O.) Emma, you're so comical.

Emma makes a sour face.

EMMA You need a sitter.

WOMAN (V.O.) Yes. And since it's such short notice they're willing to pay you double.

EMMA Double? Did you screen them?

WOMAN (V.O.) My dear. What do you mean? Emma gazes off in thought.

WOMAN (V.O.)

Hello?

EMMA I'll do it, but they better not be crazy like the last family. I'm not good at dodging knives.

She looks at a scar on her arm. Hangs up the phone.

EMMA (musically) And I can find out where you live.

Emma dials a number on the phone, makes a call.

EMMA Steve, I have to babysit again.

She waits for his answer.

INT. STEVE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Seventeen year old STEVE, the male version of what could be a matching bookend to Emma, leans against the wall with the phone to his ear.

STEVE Are you lying?

INTERCUT EMMA/STEVE ON TELEPHONE

EMMA Why would I lie?

STEVE

Well, Mike Brisbane told me that you have been going over to Ted Hamlin's house after school.

EMMA

He's lying. Ted likes me, but I don't like him. I love you. You can come over if you want. I'll give you a call when the coast is clear, kay?

She hangs up the phone.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

A large vase, filled with silk flowers sits atop a marble floor.

A beautiful wood door with brass accents.

The door bell rings. DING DONG. DING DONG.

Thirty year old ELIZABETH answers the door, dressed in a sexy, low-back dress.

Emma stands on the stoop.

EMMA

I'm Emma.

ELIZABETH Yes. I know. Come in, Emma.

Elizabeth steps aside. Emma gauks at her surroundings as she passes her by. Elizabeth CHUCKLES to herself with amusement.

ELIZABETH Emma. I'm in a bit of a hurry.

Emma turns back, and watches Elizabeth drape a wrap around her shoulders.

ELIZABETH The baby's room is the second room down the hall. He's sleeping now, and shouldn't give you any trouble. I should be home about one.

EMMA No problem misses --

ELIZABETH (interrupting) -- Stark. Elizabeth Stark. I've left numbers on the fridge.

Emma nods in understanding as Elizabeth dashes outside.

EXT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE - CONTINUED

A devil's tail drops from inside Elizabeth's dress, to the ground. She notices it immediately, and looks back.

ELIZABETH

Whoops!

The devil's tail tucks itself back up her dress. She jogs down the sidewalk. Stops. Turns back.

ELIZABETH

I almost forgot. If he gives you any trouble, just sing him a lullaby. He loves them. He'll go right back to sleep.

She waves.

ELIZABETH

Bye.

She rushes off.

Emma closes the door.

EMMA

Strange...

An immediate BANG BANG BANG of knocks on the door.

EMMA Did you forget something?

She opens the door, and finds Steve there.

The baby CRIES in another room. The tone is deep, raspy.

Emma gives Steve a nasty look.

EMMA Great! You woke the baby up!

She grabs him by his shirt, and yanks him inside with one swift pull.

EMMA I thought you were going to wait until I called you? How'd you know where I was?

He looks down sheepishly.

STEVE I kinda' followed you. EMMA You did what?!

The baby cries louder.

EMMA

Why?

STEVE You never know who's going to mess with you.

She eyes him.

EMMA That's not it. You followed me because you thought I was lying.

He figets nervously.

STEVE You've been sort of distant.

EMMA Gimme' a break!

She closes the door "on" him. His arm waves wildly.

STEVE Emmie! I'm sorry!

EMMA No, you're not! Go away!

MALE (O.S.) (tuff) Get out of my house dill weed!

STEVE Who's that!?

Emma lets loose of the door. Steve drops his arm long enough for her to push the door closed, and lock it. She turns away from the door.

> EMMA Mister Stark?

MALE (O.S.) This is Ted Hamlin! Emma looks confused.

EMMA

Huh?

A SLAP on the door.

STEVE I knew it!

MALE (O.S.) What's the problem?!

Emma's face contorts, she's pissed.

EMMA The problem is I'm gonna' kick your ass, Ted Hamlin!

She stomps off down the

HALLWAY

EMMA Where are you?!

She stops at a door.

EMMA Are you in here?!

She pushes the door in, and has a look around the room. She closes the door, and continues to the next door. She looks at the door.

> EMMA Or in here?!

She pushes the door open.

BEDROOM

Moonlight shines onto a baby crib.

The baby whimpers.

Emma sinks.

EMMA Oh baby. I'm sorry. She goes toward the crib.

EMMA I didn't mean to scare you.

A CRASH in another room.

She lifts the baby, and goes to check it out.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE - HALLWAY

Emma has the baby in her arms as she opens a door to another

BEDROOM

where she notices a breeze coming in through a hole in the window.

A large rock on the floor.

EMMA Oh my God! Steve! You're gonna' pay for this!

BABY (raspy voice) He didn't do it. It was him.

A DARK FIGURE in the center of the room. It's large. A man.

EMMA Who are you?! What do you want?!

BABY It's Ted, and you know what he wants.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE - HALLWAY

A blast of light, and a WOOSH sound explode together in a room.

SCREAMS come from inside, too.

Emma runs out of the room with the baby.

She rushes into the baby's room.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE - BABY'S ROOM

Emma sets the baby inside the crib.

EMMA

I have to find a weapon.

She lifts a lamp from atop of a nearby dresser, and positions it as a weapon in her hand.

The baby CRIES in a deep voice.

BABY Put my lamp down!

Emma looks like she's heard a ghost. She walks to the crib with the lamp still in her hand, and has a look inside. She flinches.

BABY Don't break it!

EMMA I was going to whack him on the head with it.

BABY You can't. He's gone.

Emma studies the baby.

EMMA You're a little monster. Aren't you?

He COOS.

She reaches inside the crib.

EMMA

Yeow!

She pulls back quickly, and sticks her finger in her mouth.

EMMA

And you bite!

She LAUGHS.

Emma reaches back inside.

Oh, you're a cute little devil now aren't you, baby devil.

The baby COOS some more.

She picks him up.

He's small, an infant, and all wrapped up in a blanket. She puts him up against her breast, and bounces him. A devil's tail is revealed as it drops below the blanket.

> EMMA Maybe we should check that room? Make sure he's gone?

> > BABY

Believe me, he's gone. I fixed the window, too. Didn't want my mom to find out and get mad. I want you to come back again.

She looks at his face.

EMMA I like you, too.

BABY So, where'd dill weed go?

EMMA

That was you?

He LAUGHS.

BABY It wasn't your daddy, baby cakes. Your boyfriend's a dick!

EMMA

Yeah, I know. He may be a dick, but at least he's my dick.

She GASPS.

EMMA Hey! You shouldn't talk like that!

The baby CRIES.

She bounces him as she walks him around the room.

A memory flashes across her face.

ELIZABETH (V.O.) I almost forgot. If he gives you any trouble, just sing him a lullaby. He loves them.

She looks at the baby.

EMMA How about a song? (singing) Hush a bye and good night.

The baby devil SCREAMS.

She continues to bounce him.

Emma looks around the room. She looks out the window, and notices the full moon.

EMMA Of course you wouldn't like that kind of a lullaby. Hang on. Hang on. Let me think.

A MELODY plays.

The baby quiets.

EMMA

(singing)
The clouds have swept the sky. /The
moon is sitting high. /Time for
dreams and /a werewolf's cry.
/Creatures of the night. /Time to
close your eyes /and hear the
monster's lullaby. /Creatures of
the night /the moon is sitting
high. /Listen to the monster's lull
a/ Wooo oo oo oo.

Outside in the yard, a dog HOWLS at the moon. He stops. Lowers his head.

She gently places the baby back in the crib.

BABY My throat's on fire.

Emma takes a bottle of water from on top of the dresser, and puts it inside the crib.

EMMA

Shhh now baby.

She backs out of the room.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE - HALLWAY

Emma opens a door. She reaches inside the room, and CLICKs on a light. She has a look inside the

BEDROOM

where the once broke window is now fixed. The rock on the floor is gone.

A KNOCK in another room makes her turn away.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

Emma answers the door.

Steve stands outside with a bouquet of flowers.

STEVE Are you okay?!

EMMA Of course, I'm okay.

STEVE I saw a fireball running down the street. It was a guy. He was on fire and he was screaming, Emma's a witch! Sounded like Ted Hamlin's voice.

Emma stretches to look down the street. No sign of him.

STEVE These are for you.

She grabs Steve by the shirt, pulls him close, and gives him a kiss. After the kiss, he stands there dreamy eyed.

She slams the door on him.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT Emma carries the flowers with her to the phone on a table. She sits down, and makes a call.

Steve peeks into the room.

EMMA (into phone) Is Ted there?

A smirk spreads across her face.

EMMA Leave me and my boyfriend alone or I swear there'll be more of what you got tonight.

She hangs up the phone.

Steve comes in and sits down beside her.

STEVE Who loves ya' babe?

EMMA You do. And I love you, too, but you've got to learn how to trust me.

BABY (O.S.) Mush! Mush! And more mush! Quiet down, you big dummy, and kiss her already!

Emma and Steve kiss.

Above them, on the wall, a large painting of the DEVIL, Elizabeth, and the baby.

FADE OUT